

**State Advisory Committee (SAC)
for Children with Disabilities
NH Department Of Education
Room 15
March 4, 2015
4:30pm-7:00pm**

Meeting Minutes

Attended: SAC Members Bonnie Dunham, Lisa Beaudoin, Heidi Cloutier, Candace Cole-McCrea, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Patrick Curtin, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Jean Parsons, Mike Pinard, Michelle Rosado, Maureen Tracey

Guest(s): Santina Thibedeau (Administrator, Bureau of Special Education)

Agenda I: Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes, Public Comment, Nominations

- Bonnie began the meeting approximately 4:35pm
- A moment was taken to remember Sara Edgerly of Rochester NH.
- Candace made a motion to approve the February minutes and it was seconded by Jean. After discussion the minutes from the previous meeting was approved; 9 yes and 2 abstentions, Motion passed.
- Nominations: There was discussion on if Santina could/should be nominated. Bonnie asked if she would accept a nomination and Santina said she would get back to the Committee. There were no other nominations.
- There were no public comments.

Agenda II: Updates from SAC Liaisons and Legislative Update

- There were no updates from SAC liaisons, but Sue would forward her report to the Committee.
- Bonnie gave updates on the status of the bills of interest to SAC. Some bills were discussed by the group in more detail including:
 - HB 491 Lisa B asked if this was a way for districts to skirt around the rules of seclusion and restraint. Bonnie believed the intent was to protect staff from civil law suits when they break up fights. Candace quested why drugs were not included under dangerous activities.
 - HB604 both Santina and Bonnie attended the hearing.
 - Bonnie shared that PIC has a document on its website for the golden rules of legislative advocacy.

Agenda III: Bureau Updates

- Santina shared the NHDOE Key Messages on the NHDOE's website.
- She shared that Indicator 17 was being added that will involve the social and economic growth of preschoolers.
- Santina shared the changes in Focused Monitoring. Now called Differentiated Monitoring.
 - Data points will include SPP, the State's fiscal management of federal funds, results of dispute resolution and exiting data (more detail is needed).
- Discussed how each district is monitored by the NHDOE; reviewed the thoughts for the changes in process and now each district will be placed into cohort groups based on student enrollment. Each year schools will be chosen to be monitored depending on their score compared to the other schools in their cohort group.
- Districts will be scored in the following data points.
 - District determinations;
 - Suspension and expulsion rates;
 - Percent of students with disabilities in regular education classroom for both school age and preschool students;
 - Eligibility determinations (timeliness);
 - Timeliness of qualified students with disabilities who are preschool age getting an IEP;
 - Pattern of complaints;
 - Smarter Balanced data.
- Jean inquired, she thought Smarter Balanced only had a contract for 2 years. Santina responded that they don't have a contract.
- Even if a school fails in one area it doesn't mean they will be chosen to be monitored. The grouping of the cohort groups by size should balance things out.
- Santina shared that some districts will be starting State wide standardized testing soon. Both Smarter Balanced and DLM (Dynamic Learning Maps).

Agenda IV: Old Business, including: Report from subcommittee considering a response to the Commissioner's letter re: SAC's recommendations on the Full Implementation of IEPs

- Bonnie noted that there wasn't a quorum of members present so no official votes could happen at the meeting tonight.
- Sue shared the ad-hoc committee report on the Commissioner's letter to SAC and how SAC would respond.
- SAC Recommendation 1 – Dealing with how to assist school districts to fill short term shortages of specialized staff/contractors who do services called for in students IEPs
 - SAC would like to have the NHDOE maintain a list of certified professionals who provide specialized services required in students IEP.
 - The list would have to be licensed and/or certified individuals who perhaps are retired who would be interested in short term work.
 - It would be the district's responsibility to verify if the professional has all the proper credentials and background checks.
 - Bonnie had the idea that another entity could house the list and the NHDOE could promote it.
- SAC Recommendation
 - Santina shared the current state of few specialized special education programs there are in the State.
 - Most, if not all, of Granite State College's programs are ALT 4 programs which are not ideal but fill a vital need.

- Most districts do not have the supports in place to support an ALT 4 certification. (i.e. no mentors)
- There are no undergraduate programs in special education areas that specialize in a disability area. All undergraduate programs are general special education. The few programs that are available in the state are master degree programs.

SAC Recommendation #3

- How does the NHDOE make the information on it easy to find?
- Bonnie says that she has found it if she can't find the information on the website. The NHDOE staff is always very helpful in finding information.

Agenda V: Presentation on the unmet needs of children of absent parents

- Candace gave a presentation about how parents being absent can have a negative impact on a child's social, emotional and physical well-being. Presentation was well received and there was some brain-storming on how schools could help this population.

Agenda VI: Subcommittees meet:

- Approximately at 6:40pm Bonnie broke the group up into small groups to have short subcommittee meetings.

Agenda VII: Reports from Subcommittees, with Group Input/Discussion (No time)

Agenda VIII: New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment

- Heidi announced the different trainings and workshops the IOD is holding in the next few months.
- Bonnie announced all presentation requests should come out of committee work.
- Lisa B reminded everyone about the upcoming budget hearings on March 6, 2015.
- There was no public comment.

Agenda VIII: Adjourn – *next meeting April 1, 2015*

- Michelle made the motion to Adjourn and motion was seconded by Sue. All agreed motion passed, meeting adjourned 7:10pm.